

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2022 9:30AM  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:** Deborah Cook, Guadalupe Gamboa, and James Mohr.

**Staff:** Sharon Ortiz, Executive Director; Cheryl Strobert, Deputy Director; Kristin Lamson, Assistant Attorney General; Selene Garcia, Customer Service Specialist 2; and Deborah Gonzales, Commission Clerk.

**OPENING AND WELCOME**

Chair Cook chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30A.M.

**MEETING MINUTES**

The December 16, 2021, December 21, 2021 and January 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Mohr motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gamboa seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

**CASE CLOSURES**

The following cases were pulled prior to the meeting:

Morton, Kerri v. PeaceHealth  
Heinen, Kaitlin v. AMPACC Law Group, PLLC

Commissioner Gamboa motioned to approve the cases for closure. Commissioner Mohr seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director Ortiz has been meeting with state legislatures during legislative session regarding additional funding for the agency, while also working on the recruitment for her replacement. The agency requested funding for six additional staff to help reduce the number of cases in the agency's backlog. The agency recently hired four new investigators who are due to start next month.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

The Executive Director recruitment is currently open until the end of January 2022. Two new candidates had applied, and their applications were distributed to Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. It will be decided during executive session if one or both candidates will be

interviewed. There will also be a discussion on whether the application deadline should be extended.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTING**

Commissioner Gamboa will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee to be interviewed for his appointment as Commissioner on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission moved into Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for public employment for the Executive Director position pursuant to RCW 42.30.1101(g). It was anticipated that the session would last no more than 15 minutes and would reconvene at 10:00AM.

Executive Session began at 9:45AM and ended at 10:00AM.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Chair Cook requested a motion to move either one or both candidates forward for an interview.

No motion was entered to move either candidate forward for interviews, although they may still be considered at a later time.

Commissioner Mohr entered a motion that the recruitment for Executive Director remain open until the position is filled. Commissioner Gamboa seconded the motion and it was carried.

**2022 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

February 24, 2022 at 930AM:	Via Conference Call
March 24, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
April 28, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
May 26, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
June 23, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
July 28, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
August 25, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
September 22, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
October 27, 2022 at 9:30AM:	Via Conference Call
November 2022:	TBD
December 2022:	TBD

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04AM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Gonzales